

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner has objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) on the basis that claim 8 recites that the conduit means comprises the rigid housing "being formed from a porous filament material which is semi-permeable with respect to said gas". The Examiner has requested that such feature be shown in the drawings or that the feature be cancelled from claim 8.

Applicant's Attorney wishes to point out that a certain degree of porosity is either inherent in, or can be "designed" into a filament wound (or fiber-reinforced) polymeric housing, such as the housing 11 shown herein, and in either case, whether there is practically no porosity or whether there is substantial porosity, the housing 11 would be represented in the same manner as shown herein (in FIGS. 1, 2 and 5) in accordance with the patent drawing standards set forth in MPEP §608.02. Therefore, Applicant believes that the objection to the drawings has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In accordance with the above amendment, Applicant has dealt with the objection to the specification by amending dependent claims 6 and 7 to replace the term "storage" with the term "transfer".

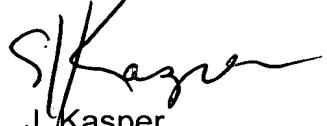
The Examiner has rejected claim 7 under 35 USC 112, because of the reference to the layer of material be disposed "between said gas chamber and said gas storage portion . . .". The Examiner alleges that such is not clear because of the reference to the transfer member being disposed within the liquid chamber. However, it is clear from the drawings and the description that, typically, the "means for receiving and collecting gas" (item 41) would be disposed toward, or even in engagement with, an inside surface of the housing 11 such that the layer of material, identified as item 41a, would clearly be disposed between the gas chamber 33 and the "gas transfer portion" (item 43). Applicant believes that this rejection of claim 7 has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to the claims because of the use of the phrase "characterized by" in each of the claims 1 through 9. As is common practice, the phrase "characterized by" is used to distinguish between a preamble, reciting known elements and the portion of the claim which sets forth those elements which, in combination with the elements in the preamble, cause the entire, recited structure to be both novel and unobvious. In the absence of any compelling reason, Applicant's

attorney would prefer not to amend the claims, and thus permit an implication that the claims should thereby be given narrower scope of interpretation.

Applicant notes with appreciation indication of allowability of the claims. Applicant's attorney believes that the case is now in condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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